

Executive Summary

Although Government guidance* requires all authorities managing TPOs to keep them under continual review, few London boroughs have ever reviewed their collection of historic orders*.

Southwark's efforts to undertake a wholesale review and Capital Asset Valuation (CAVAT) of its protected tree stock introduces a benchmark standard for the management of TPOs.

Where other review projects have been undertaken, wholesale reviews take several years. In Southwark's case, additional resource secured by Section 106 funding allowed appointment of two temporary tree officers and in the 10 months since the start of the project, over 6000+ trees from 248 orders have been inspected.

The data collected allows Southwark to better understand its urban forest, its risks and its values, and allows Southwark to target management where it is most needed.

Recommendations are made to ensure that all Southwark's significant trees are protected by accurate and enforceable orders, and additional resources are likely to be needed to manage the work highlighted by this review.

*Department of Communities and Local Government (2014). Planning Practice Guidance; Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas.

*Wright, M., Slater, D. (2017). Attitudes and Approaches in London Boroughs to the Use of Photographic Records in the Justification and Management of Tree Preservation Orders. Arboricultural Journal.

- Of the 355 original orders, 30% were found to be no longer relevant
- 19 woodland and area orders cover over 4000 trees and need to be remade to offer effective protection to some of the borough's most significant trees
- 55% of the boroughs protected tree stock are native species
- Over 75% of surveyed trees are large canopy species
- With 25% of trees being of short life expectancy and the vast majority of protected trees having reached/exceeded expected maturity, the survey results forecast a 'perfect storm' of future applications to manage risk and the perception of risk
- Most of the orders were in the south of the borough, with some northern boroughs found to have lost all of their TPOs
- A significant portion of the borough's tree stock is made up of high-risk species in terms of existing and emerging biosecurity threats
- The Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) value of the protected tree stock is estimated at around £143 million, with the average CAVAT value per order exceeding £560,000
- 90% of protected trees still meet the TEMPO criteria for worthiness for inclusion within a TPO
- 62 potential new TPOs were identified
- Photographic data on all trees was captured, creating a photo archive invaluable in the event of future enforcement cases
- Data could be further assessed to give an environmental value for the protected tree stock, adding further strategic weight to the value of protected trees as public assets